

## BOER INVADERS GO WEST.

LEAVE BRISTOWN TO THE BRITISH AND MOVE TOWARD PRENSKA.

Kitchener Reports That They Will Be Followed—Most of the Damage to the Railway Repaired—Some Correspondents Say the Situation is Not So Serious, But Others Repeat Their Warnings of the Danger.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—The War Office makes public the following despatch from Gen. Lord Kitchener:

"NAUPOORT, Dec. 24.—Therewithout mounted troops have occupied Britstown without opposition. The Boers retired in the direction of Prieska. They will be followed."

CAPE TOWN, Dec. 25.—The Boers who were repulsed at Steynsburg fled to the Zuurberg Mountains, where they are entrenched themselves. It is believed that they have already been driven out of their positions.

A large body of troops is being formed here to guard the British communications.

The Boers have blown up a culvert south of De Aar.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—The Government still does not issue anything indicating a belief in the gravity of the situation in South Africa, and a majority of the correspondents at Cape Town do not treat the invasion of Cape Colony by the Boers as a serious matter.

They say it is too great a readiness to take an alarmist view of the situation. Practically no colonists have joined the invaders. The Government has taken care to keep their stocks of ammunition low, and it is believed that only a few effective arms are in the possession of anti-British colonists.

The correspondents add that the damage done to the railway is not great. The line is slightly, and has been repaired. Most of the breaks in the lines were caused solely by the weather. A mail train from Johannesburg reached Cape Town safely on Tuesday. There is no civilian traffic, however, further north than Victoria West.

Trains are running irregularly between De Aar and Kimberley.

The Government is represented as taking the most elaborate precautions to prevent the situation from developing seriously, and the incursion has expedited the recruiting for the various irregular corps to a marvellous extent, while many villages and towns are forming volunteer guards and constructing intrenchments.

On the other hand the Cape Town correspondents of the Morning Post, in a despatch dated Dec. 24, confirm the alarming reports.

He says that the position of the colony is hanging in the balance, and that the result depends on the quantity of ammunition which the disloyal Dutch have at their disposal. It is estimated, he declares, that 1,500 Dutch inhabitants of the Philistown district have joined the invaders.

The Cape Colony treason act is considered sufficient to meet the present emergency. It only provides a punishment of disfranchisement for five years for the rank and file of those who take part in a rising. Energetic measures are being taken to stem the invasion, but there is unquestionably some danger of parties of the Boers getting through to other parts of the colony and gradually raising the whole Cape territory in rebellion.

Reinforcements, especially mounted troops, cannot arrive too soon.

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